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Special supplement

Newsline

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20 honored at Research Council's first annual awards dinner

"The world class reputation of the Alberta Research Council is due to the hard work and achievements of our staff."

These were the opening words of Fred D. Bradley, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alberta Research Council, at the Research Council's first annual awards dinner and ceremony. The event was held March 24 at the University of Alberta's Faculty Club, when 20 individual employees were honored.

Mr. Bradley went on to comment on the appropriateness of holding the first awards night at the university – the birthplace of the Research Council. He also told those present that Premier Getty has set science and technology as a major priority of the government, and that the Alberta Research Council figures prominently in that plan.

Dr. Clem Bowman, president, hosted the awards ceremony as emcee. He noted there are a number of ways in which the Research Council staff contribute to the success of the organization.

"The importance of a recognition program, and an awards ceremony, is to demonstrate what we at the Research Council are all about – research accomplishments."

Dr. Richard Kerr, manager, Technical Services, Alberta Energy Company Ltd., and member of the Research Council's Board of Directors, agreed with Dr. Bowman's assessment. In summing up the evening's agenda, he said, "To succeed in business you must do two things. First, you have to make the right decisions, and that includes doing the right things. Second, you must be able to convince others that you have done this.

Dr. Bowman, acting as emcee, gets the evening rolling.

"On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate the Alberta Research Council and its employees for organizing this event."

Other members of the Board of Directors in attendance to honor award recipients were: Dr. Irene E. Teitz; Dr. C. Robert James, Vice-President Research, University of Alberta; Dr. Michael A. Ward, Vice-President Research, University of Calgary; Roy O. Lindseth, President, Tecknica Resource Development Ltd.; John R. McDougall, President, DALCOR Innoventures Ltd.; and Research Fellows Dr. Toshi Kaneda, Biotechnology Department and Dr. Brian Hitchon, Alberta Geological Survey.

The Research Council's recognition program was established to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of the organization's professional and technical staff for the previous calendar year. It is the kind of activity that can foster positive team spirit and build individual enthusiasm.

In general, staff selected to receive awards had either gained external recognition, attained the highest professional and technical levels in the organization, or reached 25 years of service.

Within these guidelines, specific award categories were developed by the Management Committee and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Criteria that had been established for each of these categories were then used as the basis of final staff selection by department heads and senior management.

Award categories for which staff could be nominated this year included:

Patents – The award of a patent is a tangible result of the efforts of a researcher and his or her team. To encourage staff to be alert to the possible practical applications of their work, and to recognize the extra effort required in pursuing a patent, the Alberta Research Council has a policy of financial award to the inventor(s).

continued on page 2

This financial award is made in two installments – at the time of patent application, and when the patent is awarded. This practice will continue throughout the year, and a certificate of merit awarded at the Awards function.

Invited lectures – The Research Council will recognize those professionals who have been invited to present keynote addresses at conferences, or who have participated in plenary sessions to report on their research work.

Best paper – Research staff are encouraged to present papers at scientific conferences. Alberta Research Council professionals are frequently the recipients of 'best paper' awards at these conferences. This category is intended to acknowledge those efforts, and to encourage researchers to actively participate and present the results of their research.

These papers will normally be based on work performed at the Research Council.

External professional awards – To acknowledge Research Council staff who have been recognized by professional bodies for the valuable contributions made to these programs, usually on a voluntary basis.

Technology licences – The Alberta Research Council holds in high regard the transfer of technology through licensing arrangements, generally to the private sector. Recognition will be given to staff who have been successful in these efforts. No awards were given under this category for 1987.

Fred Bradley, Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Lars Bach.

Dr. Toshi Kaneda, Dr. Irene Teitz, and Dr. Duncan Currie.

Promotion – To be promoted to a Senior Research Officer, the career of a professional is critically examined internally, as well as by external referees. The technologist who is promoted to Technologist IV is similarly appropriately evaluated. This category recognizes the dedication of those who have advanced to the most senior professional and technical level in the organization.

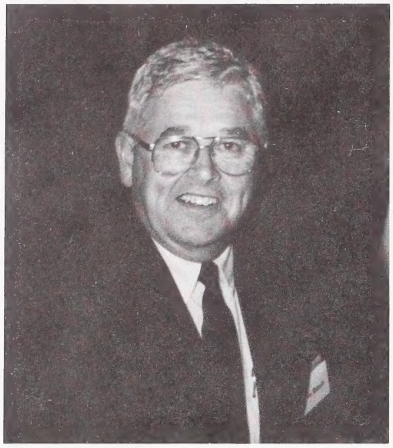
Long term service – To recognize all staff who have reached 25 years of service with the Alberta Research Council. Recipients in this category receive an Eskimo carving in addition to their award certificate.

Safety – The importance of safety in the research laboratory has been given new emphasis in the Alberta Research Council. Pacesetter organizations put safety as the number one index to performance, setting the tone for the organization and its commitment to excellence. Those departments in the Research Council achieving the best safety record, will be suitably recognized. The first award under this category will be presented for 1988.

Other: Accreditation: Awards were presented to the staff of Research Council laboratories which had attained or renewed accreditation during 1987.

Award recipients.

Patents

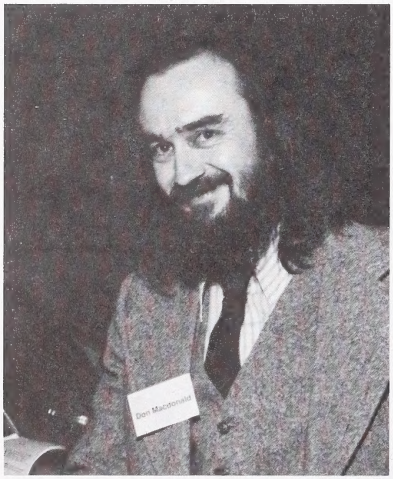


Dr. Lars Bach
Manager, Forest Products Laboratories, Industrial Technologies Department
- U.S. Patent, November 1987
"Transverse Vibration Apparatus for Grading Wood Panels"
- U.S. Patent, June 1987
"Process for the Manufacture of a Corrugated Wafer Board Panel"

Dr. Leszek Ignasiak
Project Manager, Agglomeration Group, Coal and Hydrocarbon Processing Department
- Canadian Patent, 1986
- U.S. Patent, January 1987
"Agglomeration of Subbituminous Coal Fines"

Dr. Duncan Currie
Vice-President, Natural Resources Division
- Canadian Patent, January 1987
"Oil Sands Mining"

Best paper



Don Macdonald **Rudy Strobl**
Alberta Geological Survey
"Coals Formed in Coastal Environments Within the Upper Cretaceous of the Alberta Basin" – presented at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) meeting in Boise, Idaho.
Also awarded to **Tom Demchuk**, summer student, Alberta Geological Survey for "A Modified *Momipites-Caryapollenites* Palyofloral Lineage: Central Alberta Paleocene Zonation" – presented at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia (no photo available).

Invited lecturers

Dr. Grant Mossop
Alberta Geological Survey
"Political Decisions Affecting the Geosciences in Canada" – invited Keynote Address presented to the Geological Society of America Penrose Conference on Geopolitics, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July, 1987.

"Geological History of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin" - Distinguished Lecture of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, presented at 11 Canadian universities.

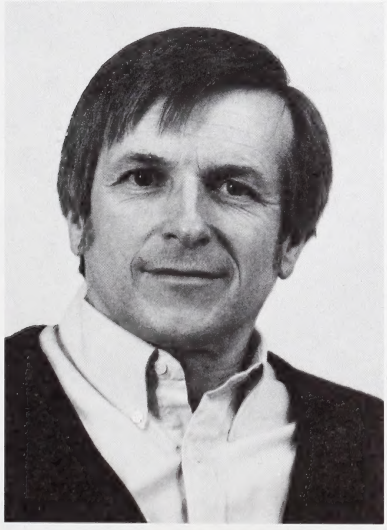
External professional awards

Dr. Rand Harrison
Manager, Oil Sands Geology Group
Alberta Geological Survey
1987 Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (GSPG) Tracks Award.

Brian Young
General Manager
Electronics Test Centre
Appointed a Fellow by the Standards Engineering Society (SES), in recognition of his dedicated service to the Society.

Dr. Peter Tremaine
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department (currently on secondment to Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority)
1987 Sunner Award at the annual Calorimetry Conference for contributions to the development of new calorimetric methods, or the novel application of existing methods to problems in science or engineering.

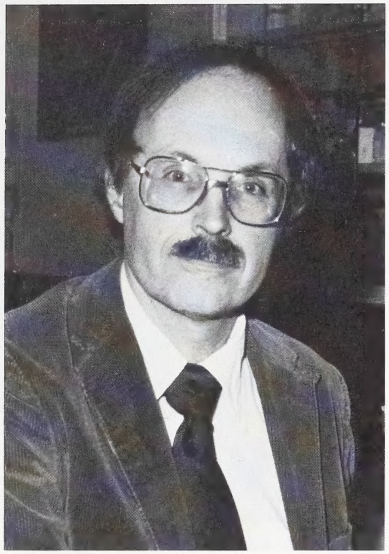
Long term service



Ron Wasel (left)
Chief Chemist, Gasoline and Oil Testing Laboratory, Industrial Technologies Department

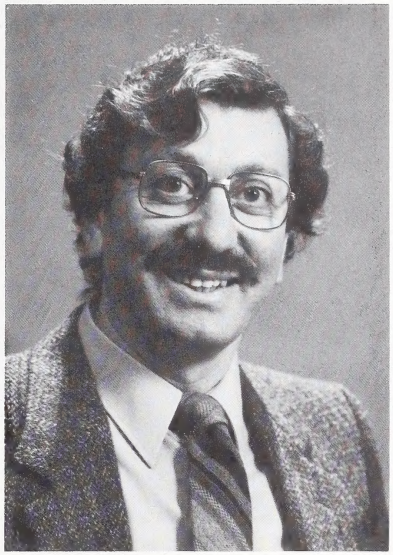
Don Morrison (right)
Systems Analyst, Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

Promotion



Dr. Bill Gunter
Group Leader, Hydrothermal Chemistry
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

To Senior Research Officer



Dr. Eddy Isaacs
Group Leader, Physical Chemistry
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

To Senior Research Officer

Lina Klein
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

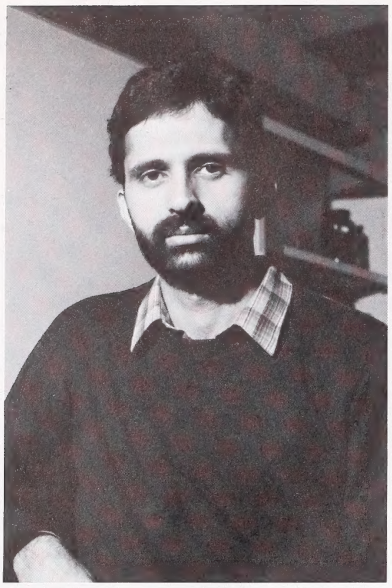
To Technologist IV

Dale Hoover (left)
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

To Technologist IV

Gerard Korpany (right)
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

To Technologist IV



Gurdeep Purewal (far left)
Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department

To Technologist IV

Peter Mohammed (left)
Coal and Hydrocarbon Processing Department

To Technologist IV

Accreditations

Gasoline and Oil Testing Laboratory, Industrial Technologies Department

Accredited by the Standards Council of Canada – award accepted by Ron Wasel

Forest Products Panel Testing Laboratory
Industrial Technologies Department

Reaccredited by the Standards Council of Canada – award accepted by Dr. Lars Bach

Electronics Test Centre

Accredited by the Department of National Defense – award accepted by Brian Young

The president has some "fun"

In a less serious vein, the President's Award for Astonishing Management was initiated this year by Dr. Bowman to recognize one member of the Management Committee for astonishing management accomplishment. Members of the Management Committee were later relieved to learn that the competition for this award would probably increase in coming years with the inclusion of board members and department heads.

President's Award for Astonishing Management (PAAM)
Dr. Robert Green
Vice-President , Operations Division

"For his contribution to understanding the importance of fixed assets."

Dr. Green responded to this dubious honor by bringing out his green, inflatable dinosaur!

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